

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 AID-05 AGR-05 H-02 PA-01

PRS-01 EB-07 SS-15 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /073 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM - RADUGSTAD:PP

APPROVED BY S/DM:DHERNST

NSC - SLOW (SUBS) - HHORAN(DRAFT)

ARA/LA - GBROWN (SUBS)

ARA/MEX - JKEANE (SUBS)

SCA - LLAWRENCE (INFO)

SER/INC - MWAMPLER (SUBS)

DEA - MANTONELLI (SUBS)

NIDA - JPSMITH (SUBS)TRY-MBACH(DR

ARA - WHLUERS (DRAFT) S/S:REWOODS

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

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LA PAZ FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA'S PROPOSAL FOR MIXED COMMISSIONS AND
TOP-LEVEL COOPERATION IN PUBLIC PROGRAM TO COMBAT DRUGS

REF: MEXICO 0233

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM LUERS-AND ERNST

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1) WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THE POSITIVE RESPONSE OF

PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG ABUSE AND INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AS INDICATED IN HIS MEETING WITH YOU AND CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN. WE CONSIDER HIS INITIATIVE IN SUGGESTING THE FORMATION OF PARALLEL U.S. AND MEXICAN COMMISSIONS THAT COULD ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DRUG ABUSE, AND INCREASE AND IMPROVE JOINT DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND WITHIN EACH COUNTRY, TO BE A POSITIVE AND USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO CONFRONT THIS PROBLEM.

2) OUR INITIAL AND PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE PROPOSAL THAT MAY BE OF HELP TO YOU IN YOUR MEETING ON JANUARY 10 WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA INCLUDE:

-- WE ARE RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA AND SEE DISTINCT ADVANTAGES TO A BROADER AND MORE FORMAL FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD, BUT WE AGREE WITH THE CAVEATS THAT YOU EXPRESSED AND WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING IN DETAIL OF THE SUGGESTED MODALITIES AS THEY ARE BEING SUGGESTED.

-- WE WOULD WANT TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE ELEMENTS OF THE GOM TO ACHIEVE INCREASED MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS IN THE CRITICAL AREAS OF CURRENT COOPERATION, E.G., ERRADICATION AND INTERDICTION, AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. ABOVE ALL, WE WOULD NOT WANT EXISTING PROGRAMS TO BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

-- SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSIONS IN THE AREAS OF LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS, SCOPE, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES, STRUCTURE AND SIZE SHOULD BE SOUGHT. WE ASSUME DETAILS CAN BE DEVELOPED LATER, BUT SUCH INDICATIONS WILL BE NEEDED FOR STUDY ON U.S. SIDE BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ON ECHEVERRIA'S SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. OUR PRESENT INCLINATION IN REGARD TO A COMMISSION ON THE U.S. SIDE IS TOWARD THE CONCEPT OF A TASK FORCE COMPRISING EXISTING AGENCIES RATHER THAN A NEW BODY WITH ITS OWN STAFF AND BUDGET.

-- CONCERNING THE QUESTION OF DURATION OR PERMANENCY OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSIONS, WE BELIEVE THE ENTITIES ESTABLISHED SHOULD CONTINUE ONLY AS LONG AS WARRANTED. OUR POINT ONLY IS THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE THE OPTION OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE EVENT THAT THE PROPOSED BODY WOULD BECOME INEFFECTIVE OR UNDESIRABLE AT SOME FUTURE TIME. WE WOULD WANT TO SET A DATE FOR THE EXPIRATION OF THE LIFE OF THE COMMISSIONS, AND REEXAMINE THE USEFULNESS OF MAINTAINING THEM AT THAT TIME.

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-- WE AGREE WITH THE SUGGESTION OF MAKING THE PROPOSED

COMMISSIONS BROAD-GAUGED IN COMPOSITION TO INCLUDE ALL CONCERNED ELEMENTS RELATED TO DRUG ABUSE DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN EACH COUNTRY. A WORKING LEVEL INTERGOVERNMENTAL STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE MORE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED EXISTING AGENCIES IN EACH GOVERNMENT COULD DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SCOPE AND APPROACH OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSIONS BUT ALSO ASSURE US OF ACHIEVING MAXIMUM COOPERATION ON CURRENT JOINT PROGRAMS OF DRUG CONTROL.

-- AS YOU CAN WELL APPRECIATE, THE USG CANNOT AT THIS POINT COMMENT ON THE RELATED PROBLEM OF MEXICAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FINANCING. HOWEVER, WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM AND AGREE IT NEEDS EXPLORATION.

3) WE ARE PREPARED TO BEGIN WORKING ON THIS PROPOSAL IMMEDIATELY. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S

CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, AMBASSADOR VANCE, PRESENTLY ON A CONSULTATION VISIT IN SOUTH AMERICA, WILL ARRIVE IN MEXICO ON JANUARY 23 FOR SEVERAL DAYS' CONSULTATION VISIT. AT THAT TIME HE CAN ASSIST IN ONGOING DISCUSSIONS.

4. WE RECOMMEND, SUBJECT APPROVAL AMBASSADOR, THAT DR. ROBERT DUPONT, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRUG ABUSE, BE INCLUDED IN FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION SATURDAY TO PROVIDE USG DRUG PROGRAM EXPERTISE. WE ASSUME THIS WOULD BE WELCOMED BY CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG ABUSE, PROPOSALS (BID), COMMITTEES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE006138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RADUGSTAD:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760009-0172
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760168/aaaacirk.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 233
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECHEVERRIA'S PROPOSAL FOR MIXED COMMISSIONS AND TOP-LEVEL COOPERATION IN PUBLIC PROGRAM TO COMBAT DRUGS
TAGS: SNAR, MX, US, (ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ, LUIS)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006